(b) whether NDDB had obtained prior approval from Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Immunologicals Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of NDDB incorporated Indiagen Ltd. as its subsidiary in November, 2004. Also, in the Mother Dairy group of companies, in august, 2004 Mother Dairy Delhi Ltd. was amalgamated with Mother Dairy IndiaLtd. and Mother Dairy Foods Ltd. was amalgamated with Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt. Ltd.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Selling milk and milk products by NDDB

†2884. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has stopped selling milk and milk products of the State Dairy Federations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether it is in the interest of the farmers; and

(c) if so, in what manner this benefit will reach the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Interest free loans and suicides

2885. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals to provide interest free loans to agriculturists for specified crop period, to help the farmers boost up growth, without being placed in situations where they are driven to commit suicides; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of suicide-deaths by farmers during 2005-06 in the country and in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) There is no proposal to privide interest free loans to agriculturists.

(b) Details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers in the country during 2005-06

SI.No	. Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Governments)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2004-05 (from 14.05.2005 to 11.11.2005)	1068
2.	Karnataka	2005-06 (upto 28.3.2006)	124
3	Maharashtra	2005	142
4.	Punjab	2005-06 (upto 30.6.2005)	Nil
5.	Kerala	2005	21
6.	Orissa	2005-06 (01.03.2005 to 30.09.2005)	5
7.	Gujarat	2005	1

Suicides by poultry farmers of Maharashtra

2886. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committed suicides in various States since January, 2006, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that some poultry farmers in Maharashtra have also committed suicides after running up major debts because of tumbling poultry prices caused by bird flue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) As per the reports received from the State Governments,